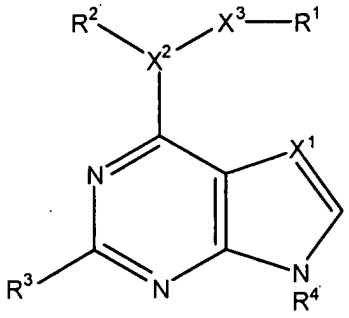
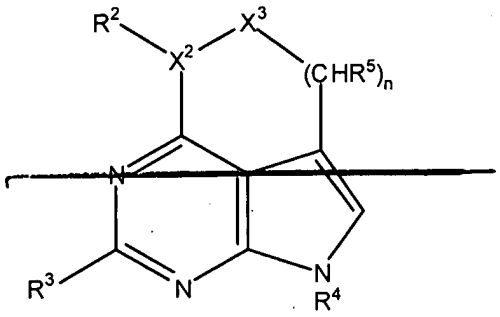
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a ribonucleoside analogue in accordance with general formula I ~~or II~~

I [II]





where:

~~n = 1-4, preferably 2-4,~~

X^1 = N or CH or CR^5

X^2 = N or S or CR^5

X^3 = NR^6 or O or S or R^6 when X^2 = N, or X^3 = NR^6 or R^6 when X^2 = S, and X^3 is absent when X^2 = CR^5

R^1 = H or alkyl or aryl or alkaryl or acyl

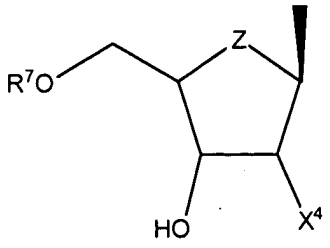
R^2 = H or alkyl or aryl or alkaryl or acyl; when X^2 = S, R^2 is absent;

R^3 = H or NR^5R^6 or $NR^5NR^5R^6$ or NR^5OR^5

R^5 = H or alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl or aryl or alkaryl or acyl

R^6 = H or alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl or aryl or alkaryl or acyl and

R^4 = H or



wherein

Z = O or S or CH_2 or CHF or CF_2 or NR^5
X^4 = OH or F
R^7 = H or PO_3^{2-} or $P_2O_6^{3-}$ or $P_3O_9^{4-}$ or a masked phosphate derivative,

in admixture with a physiologically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

2. (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the ribonucleoside analogue is provided as the base analogue or the ribonucleotide analogue.

3. (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim1 or claim 2, wherein the ribonucleoside analogue comprises a purine analogue.

4. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 which, following administration to a human or animal subject, gives rise to a chemical entity which, inside a cell of the subject, is incorporated into a RNA molecule by a cellular, or preferably viral, RNA polymerase present in the cell.

5. (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein the cell is infected by an RNA virus, the RNA molecule is an RNA copy of at least part of the viral genomic nucleic acid molecule.

6. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the ribonucleoside analogue is such that Z is O.

7. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein X^2 is N.

8. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein X^3 is O or comprises N.

9. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein X^4 is OH.

10. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein X^2 is N and X^3 is NH_2.

11. (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, comprising a ribonucleoside analogue having the structure shown in Figure 3 or Figure 7.

12. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein X^2 is N, X^3 is O and R^1 is alkyl.

13. (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein R^1 is methyl or substituted methyl.

14. (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, comprising a ribonucleoside analogue having the structure shown in Figure 11, or the corresponding ribonucleotide analogue.

15. (previously presented): A method of making a pharmaceutical composition suitable for preventing and/or treating an RNA virus infection in a human or animal subject, the method comprising the step of mixing a ribonucleoside analogue in accordance with general formula I or II of claim 1 with a physiologically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended): A method according to claim 15, comprising the step of combining a plurality of different ribonucleoside analogues, each analogue being in accordance with general formula I ~~or II~~.

18. (currently amended): A method according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, comprising the step of including in the pharmaceutical composition a further antiviral agent.

19. (original): A method according to claim 18, wherein the further antiviral agent is an inhibitor of reverse transcriptase.

20. (original): A method according to claim 18, wherein the further antiviral agent is active against HIV or other retrovirus.

21. (previously presented): A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of packaging the composition in unitary dose form.

22. – 23. (canceled)

24 (withdrawn): A method of treating an RNA virus infection in a human or animal subject, the method comprising the step of administering to a subject infected with an RNA virus an effective amount of a ribonucleoside analogue in accordance with general formula I or II as defined in claim 1.

25. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 24, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 1.

26. (canceled)

27. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 37, wherein the ribonucleoside analogue has the structure shown in Figure 2 or is the corresponding ribonucleoside analogue.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 which, when administered to a human or animal subject infected with an RNA virus, inhibits replication of the virus and/or causes an increase in the mutation frequency of the virus.

30. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 which, when administered to a human or animal subject infected with an RNA virus, causes inhibition of LTR-mediated transcription of viral nucleic acid.

31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended): A composition suitable for application to a plant, for the purpose of preventing and/or treating an RNA virus infection of the plant, the composition comprising an RNA nucleoside analogue conforming to general formula I ~~or II~~ of claim 1.

33. (original): A composition according to claim 32, further comprising a surfactant and/or a plant penetration enhancer.

34. (withdrawn): A method of preventing and/or treating an RNA virus infection in a susceptible plant, the method comprising the step of applying to the plant an efefctive amount of a composition according to claim 32 or 33.

35. – 36. (canceled)

37. (withdrawn): A method of treating or preventing an RNA virus infection in a human or animal subject which comprises administering thereto an amount of a composition according to claim 1 sufficient to inhibit LTR-mediated transcription of viral nucleic acid.